## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 through 12.

13. (currently amended) A decorative hanging fabric panel for covering an architectural opening, said panel comprising in combination intersecting base yarns and stiffener yarns and having ~~at least one~~ stiffened areas defined by the location of said stiffener yarns, such that the rigidity of said stiffened areas is greater than that of the remainder of the panel in which no stiffener yarns are located;

said base yarns having a melting point;

said stiffener yarns comprising in combination low melt temperature polymer filaments having a melting point and common polymer filaments having a melting point, wherein said melting point of said low melt temperature polymer filaments is less than said melting points of said base yarns and said common polymer filaments;

whereby said low melt temperature filaments are bonded with said common polymer filaments and said base yarns within said stiffened areas upon melting of said low melt temperature filaments at a temperature below said melting points of said base yarns and said common polymer filaments and subsequent re-hardening;

said panel comprising a pair of stiffened areas adjacent each other, wherein said stiffened areas are joined together to define a rib.

14. (original) The panel of claim 13, wherein said melting point of said low temperature polymer filaments is below approximately 180 degrees C and said melting points of said base yarns and said common polymer filaments are above approximately 180 degrees C.

15. (previously presented) The panel of claim 14, wherein said melting point of said low temperature polymer filaments is no greater than approximately 150 degrees C and said melting point of said common polymer filaments is no less than approximately 250 degrees C.

16. (previously presented) The panel of claim 15, wherein said melting point of said base yarns is no less than approximately 250 degrees C.

17. (currently amended) The panel of claim 13, wherein one of said stiffened areas defines a supportive header.

18. (original) The panel of claim 13, wherein the handling characteristics of said base yarns and said stiffener yarns prior to being melted and re-hardened are similar.

19. (currently amended) The panel of claim 17 [[13]], wherein said stiffened area defining said supportive header is along an edge of said panel.

20. (currently amended) The panel of claim 13, wherein some of said stiffened areas are ~~is~~ within the interior of said panel.

21. (original) The panel of claim 13, wherein some of said base yarns are alternated in parallel with said stiffener yarns.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a decorative hanging fabric panel for covering an architectural opening, said panel having ~~at least one~~ stiffened area<u>s</u>, comprising the steps of:

providing base yarns and stiffener yarns, said stiffener yarns comprising in combination low melt temperature polymer filaments and common polymer filaments, wherein the melting point of said low melt temperature polymer filaments is less than the melting points of said base yarns and said common polymer filaments;

producing a fabric panel by intersecting said stiffener yarns with said base yarns;

heating said fabric panel to a temperature greater than the melting point of said low melt temperature polymer filaments but less than the melting points of said base yarns and said common polymer filaments, such that said low melt temperature polymer filaments flow into greater contact with said common polymer filaments and with any base yarns adjacent to or intersecting said stiffener yarns;

reducing the temperature of said fabric panel to a temperature less than the melting point of said low melt temperature polymer filaments such that said low melt temperature polymer filaments re-harden and bond with said common polymer filaments and with any base yarns adjacent to or intersecting said stiffener yarns to define [[a]] stiffened area<u>s</u> having greater rigidity than areas of said fabric panel not containing said stiffener yarns<u>;</u>

<u>wherein some of said stiffener yarns are positioned within the interior of said fabric panel;</u>

<u>and wherein adjacent stiffened areas are joined together to define ribs</u>.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of heating said fabric panel comprises tentering said fabric panel.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of intersecting said base yarns and said stiffener yarns is performed by weaving.

26. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of intersecting said base yarns and said stiffener yarns is performed by knitting.

27. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said fabric panel is heated to greater than approximately 150 degrees C and less than approximately 250 degrees C.

28. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said fabric panel is heated to greater than approximately 150 degrees C and less than approximately 250 degrees C.

29. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said fabric panel is heated to approximately 180 degrees C.

30. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein some of said stiffener yarns are positioned adjacent an edge of said fabric panel to define a single layer supportive header.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said stiffener yarns are alternated in parallel with said base yarns.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of inserting grommets into at least one of said stiffened areas.

35. (canceled)